

In the Claims:

Please cancel Claims 14-18 without prejudice and amend Claim 1 as indicated below. The status of all claims is as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A recording medium with a laminated structure, the medium comprising:
 - a substrate;
 - a recording layer provided with perpendicular magnetic anisotropy for recording of information;
 - a first foundation layer located between the substrate and the recording layer, the first foundation layer being made of a material selected from the group consisting of SiN, SiO₂, YSiO₂, ZnSiO₂, AlO and AlN;
 - an initial layer which is greater in surface tension than the first foundation layer and held in contact with a recoding-layer-side surface of the first foundation layer, the initial layer being made of a material selected from the group consisting of Pt, Au, Pd, Ru, Co and alloys thereof;
 - a functional layer held in contact with a recoding-layer-side surface of the initial layer;
 - a second foundation layer held in contact with a recoding-layer-side surface of the functional layer, the second foundation layer being made of a material selected from the group consisting of SiN, SiO₂, YSiO₂, ZnSiO₂, AlO and AlN; and
 - a roughness controlling layer which is greater in surface tension than the second foundation layer and interposed between the second foundation layer and the

recording layer, the roughness controlling layer being made of a material selected from the group consisting of Pt, Au, Pd, Ru, Co and alloys thereof;

wherein the second foundation layer is spaced from the first foundation layer at least by as much as a combined thickness of the initial layer and the functional layer.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Original) The recording medium according to claim 1, wherein the functional layer comprises one of a heat sink layer, a non-magnetic layer, a recording magnetic field reducing layer and a soft magnetic layer.

4. (Original) The recording medium according to claim 1, wherein the functional layer has a thickness of no less than 20nm.

5. (Previously Presented) The recording medium according to claim 1, wherein the second foundation layer is smaller in surface tension than the functional layer.

6. (Previously Presented) The recording medium according to claim 1, wherein the roughness controlling layer includes a recording-layer-side surface having a surface roughness Ra of 0.5-0.85nm.

7. (Previously Presented) The recording medium according to claim 1, wherein the roughness controlling layer has a recording-layer-side surface formed with protrusions and valleys, and wherein an average diameter of the protrusions is 5-20nm.

8. (Previously Presented) The recording medium according to claim 1, wherein the roughness controlling layer has a recording-layer-side surface formed with protrusions and valleys, the protrusions and valleys having a maximum height difference of 3-10nm.

9. (Previously Presented) The recording medium according to claim 1, wherein the recording medium is a magneto-optical recording medium having a multi-layer structure.

10-18. (Canceled)